

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
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AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
USINT BAGHDAD
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR

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TAGS: PINS, PORS, ASEC, TU
SUBJ: NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL CONSIDERS INTERNAL SECURITY
REF: ANKARA 4606

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. SUMMARY: NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL MET JUNE 28, AND ACCORDING TO PUBLIC SOURCES, SESSION WAS DOMINATED BY CONSIDERATION OF INTERNAL SECURITY. RECENT WAVE OF PROVOCATIVE ACTS OF VIOLENCE, INCLUDING CLASHES BETWEEN RIVAL IRAQI KURDISH FORCES IN TURKEY, REPORTEDLY PROMPTED COUNCIL MEETING. ONE PAPER NOTED THAT MEASURES DECIDED ON BY COUNCIL ARE DESIGNED SPECIFICALLY TO RESPOND TO PERCEIVED SEPARATIST THREAT. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING A RECENT WAVE OF UNUSUALLY PROVOCATIVE ACTS OF
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POLITICAL VIOLENCE, DISCUSSION OF INTERNAL SECURITY REPORTEDLY DOMINATED JUNE 28 SESSION OF TURKEY'S NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL (COMPOSED OF PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT AND MILITARY FIGURES). INCIDENTS WHICH HAVE APPARENTLY CAUSED CONCERN INCLUDE:
--CLASH BETWEEN RIVAL IRAQI KURDISH FACTIONS IN HAKKARI PROVINCE ON MAY 12 AND CONTINUING BORDER VIOLATIONS (REPORTED REFTTEL);
--ISTANBUL BOMBING ON JUNE 7 IN WHICH VEHICLE BELONGING TO MILITARY

PROSECUTOR EXPLODED AND OFFICER WAS SERIOUSLY WOUNDED. THE OFFICER SERVED AS A MILITARY PROSECUTOR IN DIYARBAKIR DURING THE 1971-73 MARTIAL LAW PERIOD;

--ASSASSINATION OF A RETIRED NAVAL OFFICER IN ISTANBUL ON JUNE 23. HE HAD BEEN THE LEADER OF A TEAM OF SHARPSHOOTERS WHO CAPTURED INFAMOUS TURKISH TERRORIST MAHIR CAYAN AND KILLED HIS COMPANION IN A SHOOTOUT FOLLOWING THE KIDNAPPING OF THE ISRAELI CONSUL GENERAL IN ISTANBUL IN 1971; AND
--BOMBING OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT BUILDING ON JUNE 27.

3. PRO-GOVERNMENT MILLIYET REPORTED ON JUNE 30 THAT THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING WAS PROMPTED BY THESE INCIDENTS. THE FIRST AGENDA ITEM WAS A DISCUSSION OF THE CAUSES AND AIMS OF ATTACKS ON THE TURKISH ARMED FORCES AND THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT, ACCORDING TO MILLIYET. ALSO CONSIDERED WERE THE ACTIVITIES OF SEPARATIST GROUPS AND ALSO OF RADICAL LEFTIST ORGANIZATIONS AND THEIR TIES TO GROUPS OUTSIDE TURKEY. MKLLIYET SAYS THE COUNCIL DETERMINED THAT SO-CALLED "LIBERATED ZONES" IN VARIOUS CITIES MUST BE ELIMINATED.

4. MASS APPEAL HURRIYET, WHICH REPORTEDLY HAS GOOD ACCESS TO SECURITY INFORMATION, FOLLOWED UP ITS RECENT SERIES OF REPORTS ON FIGHTING IN SOUTHEASTERN TURKEY INVOLVING IRAQI KURDS BY EMPHASIZING MEASURES TO BE TAKEN TO RESTORE ORDER AND RESPOND TO SEPARATIST ACTIVITIES. HURRIYET SAID SECURITY FORCES WILL:

--CLOSE DOWN ALL ASSOCIATIONS ENGAGED IN SEPARATIST ACTIVITIES BY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ENFORCING LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS;

--SILENCE ALL SEPARATIST PUBLICATIONS;

--ELIMINATE THE INFLUENCE OF SEPARATIST ORGANIZATIONS IN EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES;

--INITIATE A PLANNED AND CONTINUOUS "EDUCATION MOBILIZATION" IN EASTERN AND SOUTHEASTERN ANATOLIA;

--EXPOSE THE ROLE OF CLANS AND TRIBES IN SEPARATIST ACTIVITIES AND INSURE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF SECURITY FORCES;

--PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES TO DIVERT INDIVIDUALS FROM SEPARATISM;

--ESTABLISH AN AIR SECURITY CONTROL REGION TO PREVENT THE CLASH OF RIVAL KURDISH GROUPS WITHIN TURKISH BORDERS; AND

--DEVELOP MOUNTAIN COMMANDO UNITS TO PREVENT BORDER CROSSINGS.

5. IN RESPONSE TO ATTACKS ON ACTIVE DUTY AND RETIRED OFFICERS OF THE ARMED FORCES, WHICH RADICAL LEFTIST GROUPS CLAIM ARE IN RETALIATION FOR THEIR ACTIONS TAKEN DURING THE 1971-73 MARTIAL LAW PERIOD, HURRIYET REPORTS THE COUNCIL DECIDED THE GOVERNMENT WILL IMMEDIATELY COMPILE A LIST OF ALL OFFICIALS WHO SERVED DURING "CRITICAL PERIODS" AND PROVIDE THEM CONTINUOUS PROTECTION. END UNCLASSIFIED.

6. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE: COMMENT: PRESS ACCOUNTS OF THE ISSUES DISCUSSED BY THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL AND THE ACTION PROGRAM REPORTEDLY ADOPTED HAVE POTENTIALLY OMINOUS OVERTONES:

A. IN THE WAKE OF THE MARCH 12 "COUP BY MEMORANDUM" AND SUBSEQUENT MARTIAL LAW PERIOD, LEFTIST TERRORISTS HAVE SCRUPULOUSLY AVOIDED ATTACKING MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES. THE RECENT BOMBING AND ASSASSINATION IN ISTANBUL MAY INDICATE THAT THE 'TRUCE' HAS ENDED. THE TURKISH MILITARY IS EXTREMELY CONSCIOUS OF INSULTS TO ITS HONOR, AND FAILURE OF THE GOVERNMENT TO CURB SUCH ATTACKS COULD INCREASE PRESSURES FOR MILITARY INTERVENTION. WE HAVE NO INDICATION, HOWEVER, THAT THE MILITARY IS CURRENTLY CONSIDERING SUCH A STEP.

B. MANY TURKS SEEM INCREASINGLY CONVINCED THAT KURDS HARBOR SEPARATIST SENTIMENTS AND PARTICIPATE IN TURKEY'S POLITICAL VIOLENCE.

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THE COUNCIL'S APPARENT HEAVY EMPHASIS ON SEPARATIST ACTIVITIES AND THE REQUIREMENT FOR ADDITIONAL SECURITY MEASURES IN TURKEY'S PRE-DOMINANTLY KURDISH SOUTHEASTERN REGION SUGGESTS THE COUNCIL MAY HAVE ADOPTED VIEW THAT THE SOLUTION TO INTERNAL SECURITY PROBLEM LIES IN A CRACKDOWN ON KURDISH SEPARATISTS. GIVEN THE HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES OF THE MARTIAL LAW PERIOD AND ALLEGATIONS KURDS SUFFERED GREATLY IN PROPORTION TO THEIR NUMBERS AT THAT TIME, THE POTENTIAL FOR A REPETITION OF THE EVENTS OF 1971-73 CANNOT BE DISCOUNDED. SPIERS

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